

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US/BRAZIL JOINT GROUP ON ENERGY TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION

MINUTES OF FIRST MEETING SUBJECT GROUP HELD SEPT 17

AT BRASILIA FOLLOWS:

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE US-BRAZIL JOINT GROUP ON ENERGY WAS HELD AT THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS, BRASILIA, ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1976. THE US DELEGATION WAS LED BY AMBASSADOR FREDERICK IRVING, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS; THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION WAS LED BY AMBASSADOR PAULO CABRAL DE MELLO, HEAD OF THE ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS. THE LISTS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS ARE GIVEN IN ANNEXES I AND II.

IN HIS OPENING REMARKS, AMBASSADOR CABRAL DE MELLO NOTED THE BALANCE-OF-PAYMENT COSTS TO BRAZIL OF ITS HEAVY RELIANCE ON OIL IMPORTS AND THE CONSEQUENT NEED TO DRAW
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MORE INTENSIVELY ON INDIGENOUS ENERGY RESOURCES AND EXIST-

ING AS WELL AS PROMISING NEW ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES. AMBASSADOR IRVING, IN HIS REPLY, POINTED OUT THAT BRAZIL AND THE UNITED STATES SHARED THIS DEPENDENCY AND THEREFORE SHOULD COOPERATE IN SEEKING ALTERNATIVES FOR REDUCING IT. AMBASSADOR IRVING EXPRESSED THE US DELEGATION'S HIGH REGARD FOR BRAZILIAN ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CAPABILITIES AND NOTED THAT ITS QUALITY IS SUCH THAT COOPERATION IS EXPECTED TO CONSIST OF BALANCED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

THE PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WAS AGREED. THE AGENDA IS GIVEN IN ANNEX III. THE JOINT GROUP ALSO AGREED TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ITS ACTIVITIES. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE GIVEN IN ANNEX IV.

BOTH SIDES AGREED TO CONSIDER A PAPER PRESENTED BY THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION (ANNEX V) WHICH CONTAINED SUGGESTIONS ON A NUMBER OF TOPICS WHERE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED. THESE SUGGESTIONS THESE SUGGESTIONS WERE BASED ON PRIORITIES WHICH STEM FROM THE NEED TO REDUCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE THE CURRENT LEVEL OF ENERGY IMPORTS IN BOTH COUNTRIES AND ALSO APPEARED TO HOLD THE BEST POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATIVE WORK.

A DETAILED REVIEW TOOK PLACE OF BRAZIL AND US ENERGY TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- COAL MINING TECHNOLOGY
- COAL PROCESSING
- COAL CONVERSION
- PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION OF HYDROGEN
- BIOCONVERSION
- SOLAR ENERGY
- ENERGY CONSERVATION

BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT COAL CONVERSION, BIOCONVERSION, SOLAR ENERGY AND HYDROGEN WOULD BE PRIORITY TOPICS TO BE EXPLORED FOR POSSIBLE COOPERATION. SPECIAL MENTION WAS MADE OF ADVANCED BRAZILIAN STUDIES IN BIOCONVERSION.

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IT WAS AGREED THAT COORDINATORS WOULD BE APPOINTED FOR EACH SIDE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FURTHER DETAILED TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN COAL CONVERSION AND BIOCONVERSION. THE BRAZILIAN COORDINATORS FOR THESE TOPICS WILL PROMPTLY CONTACT THEIR US COUNTERPARTS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO MAKE FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

ENERGY CONSERVATION WAS CONSIDERED TO BE AN IMPORTANT ITEM, BUT IT WAS DECIDED TO POSTPONE FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT UNTIL AFTER THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM IN THIS FIELD IS FULLY DEFINED.

IT WAS AGREED THAT IN THE AREA HYDROGEN PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION A US TEAM OF EXPERTS WILL VISIT BRAZILIAN RESEARCH FACILITIES IN OCTOBER 1976 TO FAMILIARIZE ITSELF WITH BRAZILIAN RESEARCH IN THIS FIELD AND TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE COLLABORATION.

THE BRAZILIAN SIDE WAS EXTENDED AND ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO SEND AN EXPERT TEAM TO VISIT US SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IN NOVEMBER 1976 FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

COORDINATORS FOR EACH SIDE WERE APPOINTED TO COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THESE VISITS. IN ORDER TO MAKE ADEQUATE PREPARATION FOR THESE EXCHANGES IT WAS AGREED THAT THE BRAZILIAN SIDE WOULD FURNISH A DETAILED INVENTORY OF BRAZILIAN PROGRAMS IN ALL PRIORITY AREAS.

IT WAS AGREED TO HOLD THE SECOND SESSION OF THE JOINT GROUP IN WASHINGTON ON A DATE TO BE MUTUALLY AGREED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.
BRASILIA, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 1976.
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